

Zhu, Yudong

S/N: 10/723,311

**REMARKS**

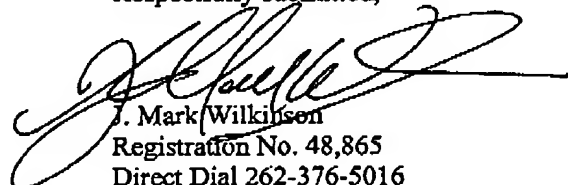
Claims 1-23 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action mailed December 15, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 10-13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Katscher et al. (USP 6,828,790). The Examiner next rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 6-9, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Katscher et al., and further in view of Ibrahim, Magnetic Resonance Imaging 19 (2001) 1339-1347.

As set forth above, the Examiner rejected claims 1-23 in light of that taught and/or suggested by Katscher et al. Notwithstanding the numerous distinctions between that which is claimed and that taught and/or suggested by Katscher et al., Applicant has, nevertheless, elected to disqualify Katscher et al. as prior art against the claimed invention as set forth in the enclosed Declaration filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.131. As set forth in the enclosed Declaration, Applicant conceived of the claimed invention prior to the effective date of Katscher et al. and diligently worked toward reducing the claims invention to practice and worked with counsel in preparing the present application. As such, the art relied upon by the Examiner in rejecting claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is disqualified and cannot be relied upon by the Examiner in sustaining the rejection of claims 1-23. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully believes that, as no outstanding issues are present, the present application is in condition for allowance.

Therefore, in light of at least the foregoing, Applicant respectfully believes that the present application is in condition for allowance. As a result, Applicant respectfully requests timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-23.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration of these Amendments and Remarks and cordially invites the Examiner to call the undersigned, should the Examiner consider any matters unresolved.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: 2/11/05  
Attorney Docket No.: GEGR8082.002  
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